No formal agreements or protocols were concluded following the above meetings. Negotiations for the renewal of the Transit Treaty, the validity of which expires in December, 1998, are expected to commence in the course of the coming months. The working of the additional road transit route to Bangladesh via Phulbari has been further streamlined and is now available for all seven days of the week.

Statement regarding Sanctity of LOC in Kashmir

4047. SHRI RAJUBHAI A. PARMAR:
SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Pioneer of June 20, 1998, reporting that Clinton Administration of the US had stressed the need to internationalise the Kashmir issue adding that the problem could no longer be ignored by the World Community;

(b) whether Government's attention has also been drawn to the statement of Mr. Strobe Talbot, a US Government representative, underlining the sanctity of LOC in Kashimir as reported in the Observer of June 20, 1998; and

(c) what is Government's reaction and response thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir. Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item which appeared in the Pipneer of June 20, 1998.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) The State of Jammu & Kashmir is an integral part of India. Government has reiterated that there is no place for international involvement whatsoever in matters concerning Jammu & Kashmir.

India's Representation against Imposition of Curbs

4048. DR. Y. LAKSHMI PRASAD: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state the steps taken to represent to the International Court of Justice and the World Trade Organisation against the curbs imposed by World Bank and International Monetary Fund under the diktats of Individul Governments?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHRA RAJE): As all the international bodies/organisations under reference have been set up through international consensus and agreements, they have been vested with specific jurisdiction which is independent of each other. A member country having differences, either with the authorities of the concerned international organisation, or with other member states, will be obliged to pursue it in accordance with the prescribed procedures within the organisation. Thus, the dispute settlement mechanisum stipulated within the World Trade Organisation (WTO), when approached by member states, essentially entertains disputes based on provisions of the various WTO agreements. Similarly, the jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice is specifically limited to disputes between member countries and does not extend to disputes between a member country and some other international institution or organisation.

In any case, India is not taking any loans from the International Monetary Fund. As regards the World Bank, out of the five projects deferred on May 26 and June 2, 1998, two were approved on July 1, 1998 while the others are under examination by the World Bank.

Flouting of Financial Rules by Diplomats

4049. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH 'SURYA': Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a news-item which appeared in Pioneer, dated 3rd July, 1998 regarding flouting of financial rules by diplomats pointed out by the CAG;

(b) if so, the details in this regard;

(c) what action Government propose to initiate in regard to the two specific cases cited in the news-item; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?